

Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-10

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY
SECDEF
HQ USEUCOM VAIHINGEN
INFO AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 304599

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: AEMR, CASC, UG, US, GW

SUBJECT: AMERICAN RESIDENTS OF UGANDA--CONTINGENCY PLANNING
REF: A) BONN20995;B)STATE302459;C)STATE 290036

FOLLOWING ARE SUGGESTED TALKING POINTS FOR PROPOSED HIGH-
LEVEL EMBASSY-FONOFF DISCUSSION OF UGANDAN E&E QUESTION.
IF FRG EMBASSY KAMPALA REPORT IN RESPONSE TO REFTEL C
BECOMES AVAILABLE PRIOR TO MEETING, TALKING POINTS MAY BE
REVISED OR EXPANDED AS APPROPRIATE.

I. WE KNOW AMB. FROEWIS AND FRG SHARE OUR CONCERN OVER
POSSIBLE ACTIONS BY AMIN AGAINST AMERICAN RESIDENTS
OF UGANDA. THIS HAS BEEN LONGSTANDING PROBLEM, AS BEST
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ILLUSTRATED BY EVENTS OF FEBRUARY-MARCH, BUT HAS BEEN
MADE MORE ACUTE OVER RECENT WEEKS BY ACTIONS USG HAS
FOUND NECESSARY IN ORDER TO GIVE EFFECT TO DEEP US CON-
CERNS OVER UGANDAN HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION.

2. DESPITE OBVIOUS FACT THAT WE WOULD PREFER OUR CITIZENS
TO LEAVE UGANDA, AS WE HAVE BEEN ADVISING THEM FOR YEARS,

WE CANNOT AND DO NOT IGNORE OUR RESPONSIBILITY INSOFAR AS POSSIBLE TO PROTECT THESE AMERICANS, THE SAME AS ANY OTHER AMERICANS ENDANGERED OVERSEAS. AS FRG IS AWARE, WE HAVE DISCUSSED THIS SUBJECT WITH FRG EMBASSY KAMPALA, INCLUDING

INITIAL DISCUSSIONS OF CONTINGENCY PLANNING IN JANUARY BETWEEN AMBASSADOR ELLERKMANN AND OFFICERS OF EMBASSY NAIROBI AND THE DEPARTMENT.

3. WE ARE NOW UNDERTAKING REVIEW OF OUR OWN CONTINGENCY PLANS RELATING TO UGANDA. WE ARE KEENLY AWARE OF THE LIMITS ON OUR ABILITY TO EFFECTIVELY PROTECT THE WIDELY SCATTERED AMERICAN COMMUNITY IN MOST FORESEEABLE CONTINGENCIES, BUT WE BELIEVE WE MUST MAKE A CONCERTED EFFORT IN THIS REGARD IF ONLY IN ORDER TO BE AS WELL-INFORMED AS POSSIBLE REGARDING THE AVAILABLE COURSES OF ACTION.

4; ONE ESSENTIAL ELEMENT IN THIS PLANNING IS UPDATING INFORMATION ON THE SIZE AND LOCATION OF THE AMERICAN COMMUNITY. SOME ADVANCE ORGANIZATION OF THE COMMUNITY (FORMATION OF GROUPS, CHOICE OF POSSIBLE EVACUATION ROUTES, AGREED COMMUNICATIONS CHANNELS) CAN ALSO BE KEY TO ULTIMATE SUCCESS OF ANY EVACUATION EFFORT SHOULD THIS BECOME NECESSARY. THESE ARE THINGS WE DO AS STANDARD PROCEDURE IN COUNTRIES WHERE WE HAVE EMBASSIES. IN THE CONFIDENTIAL

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CASE OF UGANDA, OBVIOUSLY WE WOULD HAVE TO RELY HEAVILY ON ASSISTANCE FROM THE FRG EMBASSY IN THESE FIELDS.

5. WE ALSO RECOGNIZE NUMEROUS DIFFICULTIES AND SENSITIVITIES INVOLVED. CONTACTING THE COMMUNITY, PARTICULARLY THE OUTLYING GROUPS, CAN BE VERY TIME-CONSUMING PROCESS. SOME OF THE AMERICANS, MISSIONARIES AS WELL AS BUSINESS PEOPLE, MAY BE RELUCTANT TO COOPERATE, EITHER BECAUSE THEY MAY SUSPECT THIS TO BE JUST ANOTHER EFFORT TO INDUCE THEM TO LEAVE, OR BECAUSE OF FEAR THAT PARTICIPATION IN CONTINGENCY PLANNING ACTIVITIES COULD CREATE DANGER FOR THEMSELVES BY AROUSING THE SUSPICIONS OF THE LOCAL AUTHORITIES. AND THERE IS BASIC PROBLEM THAT OUR EFFORTS THEMSELVES, IF THEY BECOME KNOWN, COULD TRIGGER JUST THE SORT OF HOSTILE UGANDAN ACTIONS WE HOPE TO AVOID.

6. WE WILL SHARE WITH FRG INITIAL RESULTS OF OUR OWN REVIEW AS SOON AS THESE ARE AVAILABLE. AT SAME TIME, WE WOULD WELCOME VIEWS OF FRG AS TO BEST METHOD OF CONTACTING AND ELICITING COOPERATION OF AMERICAN COMMUNITY IN UGANDA. (ONE POSSIBILITY MIGHT BE TO APPROACH AMERICANS ON BASIS OF PLANNING FOR CONTINGENCY OF BREAKDOWN IN LAW

AND ORDER, SUCH AS MIGHT HAPPEN IN CASE OF CIVIL WAR, ETC.).

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7. WE WOULD ALSO WELCOME VIEWS OF FRG ON BEST APPROACH TO COORDINATION OF PLANNING WORK. FRG EMBASSY KAMPALA HAS IN PAST MAINTAINED WORKING LIAISON WITH US EMBASSY NAIROBI, WHICH WOULD PROBABLY HAVE PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITY FOR RECEIVING ANY US EVACUEES FROM UGANDA. THIS CHANNEL COULD BE BUILT ON. IN CONTEXT OF PRESENT WASHINGTON-LEVEL REVIEW, WE MIGHT ALSO CONSIDER MORE FORMAL CONSULTATIONS. WE WOULD BE WILLING TO SEND U.S. TEAM (PROBABLY HEADED AT DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY LEVEL) TO BONN AND/OR NAIROBI FOR THIS PURPOSE. WHILE NAIROBI WOULD BE MORE CONFIDENTIAL

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ACCESSIBLE FOR FRG STAFF FROM KAMPALA, WE WONDER IF VISIT OF FULL TEAM IN CONJUNCTION WITH PRESENCE OF FRG EMBASSY KAMPALA STAFF MIGHT BE MORE LIKELY TO COME TO NOTICE OF AMIN AND AROUSE HIS SUSPICIONS. ALTERNATIVELY, CONSULTATIONS MIGHT BE HELD IN BONN FOLLOWED BY TRAVEL OF SOME TEAM MEMBERS TO NAIROBI TO COMPLETE TECHNICAL WORK ON PLANS.

8. ASSUMING FRG AGREES THAT SUCH AN EXERCISE WOULD BE WORTH WHILE, WE WOULD BE PREPARED TO PROCEED AS EARLY AS FIRST PART OF JANUARY. WE FEEL A CERTAIN URGENCY DUE TO FACT THAT US CONGRESS WILL RECONVENE JANUARY 19, WITH LIKELIHOOD THAT HEARINGS AND OTHER CONSIDERATION OF BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS ON UGANDA, WHICH MIGHT TRIGGER UGANDAN REACTION, WILL FOLLOW SHORTLY THEREAFTER. VANCE

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